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March 2021
volume 43, issue 3

trinity TODAY

Because God first loved us, we live as Jesus in the world.



Lent & Holy Week at Trinity
See pages 8-9

MARCH FAMILY FAITH EVENT:

Trinity Community Easter Egg Hunt

Bring joy and the reminder of our new life in Christ to all who pass by your house! From March 1 through Easter Sunday (April 4), you're invited to decorate a paper Easter egg(s) to hang in a front window of your house. Use the egg on page 7 or download more options on our web site created by our very own Robin Cain.

Then hunt for eggs around your neighborhood and beyond to be reminded that we indeed are a community who cares for one another every time an egg is spotted! To learn more and print out downloadable coloring pages, visit trinitylc.org/learning/family.



Braving the elements! Kim and Phil Hanson at Drive-in Worship

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ..."

— John 12: 20-24



LEAD PASTOR **THE REV. DR. CHRIS BELLEFEUILLE**

WE WISH TO SEE JESUS

A year.

That's how long it has been since we were last in one space together. How long it's been since we passed bread from hand to hand, lifted our voices in unison, welcomed the children running back in into worship eager to share what they had learned about God while we listened to a sermon and prayed together.

A year.

And yet, it has been longer than that since some of those whom we love who have been able to join us in the sanctuary. Those who have received worship DVDs or have watched us on Channel 18 for years. Those who have long known what it means to be part of something from a distance and have courageously practiced the public discipline of worship, prayer, confession and stewardship week after week without the shelter of a large building and the ready companionship of hundreds of others.

Those who wish to see Jesus.

We probably don't often think about it that way. But what is it that draws us out of our homes on the one day a week we could sleep in (during Normal-tide) and in pandemic draws us to our computers or cable channels that same day or at some heart-hungry time later in the week? Is it a longing

for Jesus that moves us to bundle up and sit in our cars on a chilly bluff top listening to our FM radios?

We wish to see Jesus.

You might ask, why is this a sign we wish to see Jesus and not just God?

Because we who bear the name Christian, even nominally, know what we know about God through the narrative of the life, ministry, suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We know of God's love and tenderness for our humanness because Jesus fed the hungry, healed the sick, and welcomed the outcast. We strive to be good Bible students and still what faith we might claim has been shaped such that we cannot hear the ancient stories and the wisdom of the prophets but through the filter of what God did in Jesus.

We wish to see Jesus because Jesus shows us what God looks like in relationship to human beings. It's the same God—Old Testament or New. But in Jesus, we see God in the flesh; we meet in person the lovingkindness, compassion, passion, faithfulness and exhortation that we have a role to play in helping others see and experience the same liberation, inclusion and love of God that we know through Jesus Christ.

We do wish to see Jesus.

Jesus gives us the clearest picture of how to live, how to love and serve our neighbors, how to turn again and again to God for all that we need. Jesus sorts the priorities. Jesus tears down the confusing boundaries and barriers between people. Jesus blesses our humanity and shines his light on the humanity of others. Jesus points a way forward through the miasma of political rhetoric, cancel culture, ideological echo chambers, racism, economic dehumanization and nationalism.

And Jesus does something else. Jesus calls us into community as his body alive in the world. Whether we come streaming into the building on Sunday mornings or send our worship streaming into the world week after week (someday, both!), our gatherings, our public confession of sin, our congregational prayer, our admission of hunger as we come forward for bread—all of it is our witness to the world of our hope in a story that includes all of us. Every last one.

We do wish to see Jesus.

This Lenten journey we will seek Jesus and share our stories of Jesus sightings. Teaching each other how to see.

Hearts and eyes open in hope, beloveds.

Pastor Chris

PASTOR OF LIFELONG FAITH FORMATION
THE REV. PETER WESTON MILLER



DIGITALLY EXPLORING GOD'S STORY THROUGH US, ONE PODCAST AT A TIME

Like everyone, this fall was by far the most bizarre and tragic and challenging of my years in ministry. It also might have been the most Biblical.

One of the things that difficult times do is separate us from the certainty that we know how to do everything right. And so during that time, with the support of my amazing colleague, I pitched the idea of trying something new: I bought a couple of decently rated microphones off the internet; I researched some open-source audio editing software; got a free account on Buzzsprout; and we launched a podcast. We talked briefly about what we hoped for, sketched out a script and some liturgy to help frame it, and then—like so much of ministry right now—we just hit “record.”

For this past year, I have been part of one of the cohorts of rostered ministers supported by the synod's Thriving in Ministry grant from the Lilly Endowment. One of the things we were focusing on was forming a lifelong, creative engagement with Scripture. We were asked to design and implement a project that would help us do that in our congregations. The grant provided the motivation and the funding to take this project on, but it's something that has been brewing for a while. Pandemic and this project just brought it to the surface.

We recorded “TrinityCast: An Encourage-ing Word” about once a week during our regular check-in time. So far, we have had episodes on an overview of the Old Testament, the New Testament, as well as Devotional, Historical, Literary, and a Lutheran lens for reading scripture. We also just did a full hour-and-a-half reading through the whole binge-able Gospel of Mark. We take turns “presenting,” which is simply bringing a text or topic and a few questions to get

things going. But most of our time is spent in unplanned, unrehearsed conversation—asking each other questions and working our way towards answers.

A lot of this stuff is what we talk about regularly in ministry together, but often not on a hot mic! None of it has been particularly earth shattering or particularly hard hitting; we haven't solved any un-charted theological quandaries. At least I don't think we have. We come to these conversations as we are—not as published theologians or scholars (whom I love dearly), but just as pastors going about their life and ministry. Each week, we chat for about 15 minutes about what we think about the topic, where we are struggling, what gets us excited. It's simple, it's often unpolished, but it's us.

As folks have tuned in and engaged TrinityCast, they have commented that they appreciate our pastoral transparency and honesty, how we work out our “God-algorithms,” how we encounter the voices of our community and neighbors in the Bible. Folks have commented that they love hearing how Pastor Chris and I work together, our mix of passion and joy, our questions and honest answers—even when, especially when the answers are “I really don't know.”

Some folks have also taken feverish notes while they listen, or listen in the car or while doing the dishes, and still others have said that they haven't engaged this much with the substance of Scripture since they were in confirmation, even if they have been weekly worshippers for years.

For many this is their first podcast. It's ours too (Pastor Chris and mine). But we have really enjoyed it.

Not just provided a trustworthy threshold for folks to take a digital

footstep back into the Bible, but also the power of God's story to feel different at different times. Especially pandemic time.

Maybe every faith community in a disrupted season finds it's way back to the Bible.

Maybe now, even digitally. Using whatever tools share the message of God's grace, love, and hope for us in Christ.

No matter how we engage these ancient stories and poems and letters that have helped so many who came before us shoulder the burdens of their day, we continue to find ways to see ourselves and our lives unfolding through God's story.

As we explore lots of different ways explore God's story throughout Adult Faith Formation this March (see page 6) and this season of Lent (see page 8), we hope that you will tune in and listen and add your chapter as well.

God continues to weave all of our stories together for the sake of the world.

Pastor Peter



You can find “TrinityCast: An Encourage-ing Word” wherever you get your podcasts. Or listen on our web site at: <https://trinitylc.org/learning/adult/podcast/>.

THE STEWARDSHIP OF LENT

By Claudia Swendseid, Stewardship Team

Lent, in the Christian church, is a period of preparation for the celebrations of Easter. In Western churches, including we Lutherans, it is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Lent comes from the Anglo-Saxon word *lencen*, meaning “lengthen” and refers to the lengthening days of spring. The forty days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, praying, fasting, and enduring the temptations of Satan in preparation to begin his public ministry.

Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by new converts on Easter Sunday, and subsequently became a time of penitence and spiritual discipline for all Christians leading up to Easter.

Today, many of us continue to observe Lent by intentionally reflecting on our relationship with God through prayer and self-examination. Some of us find it helpful to give up something we otherwise indulge in, to add a spiritual practice, to give of ourselves in new ways to others—or all three. Such actions seek to bring us closer to God and “our neighbor,” in the first case by letting go of things that may be getting in the way and in the latter cases by engaging in actions that foster relationship.

When I was a teenager, my family focused on two aspects of the “sacificial nature” of Lent. Before Lenten services on Wednesday nights, we “fasted” by eating a simple dinner of oatmeal followed by nothing to eat before the next day’s breakfast. Also, once a week we volunteered as a family by tutoring elementary children who needed help with reading. Needless to say, I developed a dislike for Lent. For one thing, I didn’t like oatmeal and spending time with anyone other than my friends was a trial.

Years later I confessed this dislike of Lent to my then pastor and added that I just couldn’t make the connection between giving up chocolate or some similar “vice” and the purpose of Lent. My pastor rose to the occasion. Lent, he said (and which I have paraphrased above), is the season that the church has set aside for us to

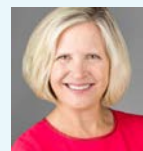
intentionally reflect on our relationship with God, others, and ourselves. It’s a time to reflect on those things that bring us closer to God and others, and those things that keep us alienated from God and others. He continued—one reason some people “give something up” for Lent is to create more space for their relationship with God.

But given my current attitude toward Lent, my pastor (wisely) encouraged me to add something to my life in Lent that might nurture my relationship with God and others, rather than taking something away. So, I did and began what has since become a yearly discipline. Many different “additions” have fostered my relationship with God and neighbor over the years, like reconciling with an old friend, adding to my Sunday offering, taking time to be with an elderly uncle, and writing in a prayer journal.

This year Trinity has made this process of Lenten stewardship easy for me by suggesting a book to read and discuss during Lent as well as offering a series of Lenten speakers to take in on Wednesday nights. So, I plan to read Trinity’s book for Lent, *The Color of Law* to learn more about our federal, state and local governments role in segregating residential housing by race. I also plan to attend as many of the Wednesday evening speaker series as I can. I’m especially interested in listening to the Reverend Jim Bear Jacobs, Director of Community Engagement and Racial Justice at the Minnesota Council of Churches (MCC). He will be speaking about the biblical mandate for racial reconciliation and reparations and the new initiative adopted by the MCC for Truth and Reparations. Recall that the ELCA is a member of the MCC and our very own Saint Paul Area Synod leader, Bishop Lull, sits on the MCC board. So we, through the ELCA, are already a part of this initiative. (Please see page 8.)

I also plan to give a bit more to Trinity during Lent than my pledge requires, as well as to give to local nonprofits serving those in need. There are so many people in our community struggling with physical needs like food and housing as well as with emotional and spiritual needs, given our

Congregational Council

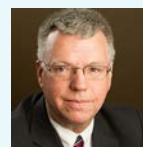


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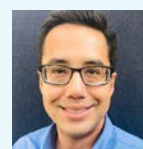
Open
COUNCIL TREASURER
To be appointed



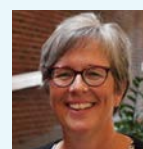
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To reach all members of council, send email to council@trinitylc.org. More information including minutes and reports at <https://trinitylc.org/welcome/who-we-are/council/>.

continued isolation. Giving financially (and in other ways) draws me closer to God because I have to do without some of the material things of this life that I love. And when I move them out of the way, God moves in.

This Lent, I hope you take some time to reflect on your relationship with the God that loves you and the neighbor that needs your love. This Lent, like me, I hope you nurture your relationship with God by focusing on all that which brings you closer to the God that calls you beloved and who has gifted you with so much.

Trinity Financial Update

January Year-to-Date - Fiscal Year 2021

	This Year	Last Year	'21 Budget	% of Budget
Contribution Income	619,133	580,001	1,326,000	47%
Other Income	107,003	152,412	422,761	25%
Total Income	<u>\$ 726,135</u>	<u>\$ 732,413</u>	<u>\$ 1,748,761</u>	
less: Expenses	677,759	687,226	1,747,358	39%
Surplus (Deficit)	<u><u>\$ 48,376</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 45,186</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 1,403</u></u>	

Long-Term Debt Summary:

Long-Term Debt - Beginning of Fiscal Yr.	3,346,629	3,410,152
Increase (Decrease)	<u>(36,174)</u>	<u>(35,041)</u>
Long-Term Debt - End of January	<u><u>\$ 3,310,455</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 3,375,111</u></u>
Line of Credit Balance - January 31	\$ -	\$ -

Financial Highlights Jan. 31, 2021

Contribution Income for January of \$155K was \$47K higher than January of 2020 and allowed us to exceed financial results for January YTD last year. Contribution Income YTD is \$39K ahead of last year. Program Registrations, Fees & Payments and Building Rental Income are off a combined \$47K YTD vs. last year, showing the continuing effects of the pandemic and reduced activity in our building. The 2021 budget contemplated this and some emergency PPP funds were designated to help with this shortfall. We will be applying some of those funds to revenue when needed to bolster cash. Learning programs expenses are correspondingly down by \$19K YTD compared to 2020. As I mentioned last month, the timing of receipt of some annual Contribution gifts fluctuates every year. January's Contributions again reflected an uptick in gifts vs. last January. January 2021 results place us ahead of last year at this time, showing a surplus YTD of \$48K v. a surplus of \$45K in 2020. Contribution Income of \$155K for the month of January 2021 is \$47K higher than January 2020, reflective of the timing of annual gifts I referred to earlier. Total Income for the month is \$38K greater than January 2020. Overall, YTD Operating Expenses are \$24K less than YTD January 2020. The strong Contribution Income in January enabled us to maintain our Line of Credit Balance at zero for the second straight month! Last year we also had a zero balance against the line at this time.

Thrivent Members— Did You Know?

Don't forget to direct Choice Dollars®

Grant funding from Thrivent Financial through its Thrivent Choice® program can help support organizations you care about. Don't let Choice Dollars expire.

Eligible Thrivent Financial members who have Choice Dollars available have until March 31, 2021, to direct any remaining 2020 Choice Dollars. Help support Trinity Lutheran Church. Choice dollars are designated equally between Outreach Missions and Building. Go to Thrivent.com/thriventchoice to learn more. Or call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt.



THRIVENT®
Be Wise With Money™



ONE & DONE BOOK GROUP

April 12 – *My Name Is Asher Lev* by Chaim Potok

June 7 – *Transcendent Kingdom* by Yaa Gyasi

The One and Done Book Group meets about every two months for a thought-provoking, faith-based discussion of a book chosen by the group. All are welcome to participate in the zoom discussion of any one or more books of interest. We'd love for you to join us!

Last month, we found *The Sparrow*, by Mary Doria Russell, to be foundational in one's search for God during the most faith-shaking experiences.

The next discussions will be: *My Name Is Asher Lev* by Chaim Potok on April 12 and *Transcendent Kingdom* by Yaa Gyasi on June 7.

If you would like to borrow any of these three books from the Trinity Library, I have them at my house and would be happy to bring them to you. I have a couple of shelves of highly recommended and widely read books from our library including *A Walk Around the Block* by Spike Carlsen, *The Vanishing Half* by Britt Bennett, and *Caste* by Isabel Wilkerson. Email me and I'll send you a complete list of books I have. Let me know also, if you'd like the Zoom link for the next One and Done. I do hope you can come.

Ann Wolff
(651) 260-3855 or wolff701@msn.com



ADULT FAITH FORUM

Sundays at 11 am
Join on Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83989674185>

Can I Tell You A Story About God and Me?

By Penny Catlin, Faith Forum Coordinator

I started doing Tai Chi about three years ago, thanks to my friends Dellzie and Joanie who encouraged me for years! (Isn't that what good friends do?) I knew I could benefit by doing something to help calm my mind and body so I finally gave it a try. After one night I loved it! There was something about it that just felt right. We stretched, did Qigong, and practice forms. All the while working on breath, being present and aware. David, our leader, talked about how practicing Tai Chi helps with ones Qi, energy that flows within and around you. It definitely took me awhile to even consider this a possibility, but eventually I became aware of the presence of this Qi.

By now you're probably wondering where am I going with this. Where is God in my story? Well, while doing Qigong at class one night I all of a sudden felt this wash of energy just flow over me from head to toe. I was so surprised at first I didn't know what to think until I just let it be and experienced it. There was such an immense sense of calm and warmth and peace, one that I had never felt before. I finally got it! It was God present with me right there! I just had never paid attention like this before. I'm always so busy in my head that I get in the way of paying attention to the presence of God right there, right now!

So why do I share this with you? There was no big miracle, no tragedy to be pulled up from, no mission-mountain top experience. I share this because it's a moment I had with God. One that helped me realize that if I pay attention and am present I have a much better time hanging out with God. I also share this because it is a story of the impact of community and friends as a place where God hangs out, even if I'm not aware of God's presence. And the more I feel that presence the more I can believe that maybe I really am a beloved child of God and I want that for you too!

I would love to hear a story of God and you. I bet you have at least one too!

Telling Your (Unvarnished) God Story: Three Part Series as Part of Adult Faith Forum

Sundays in March at 11 am on Zoom

Join on Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83989674185>

Our God stories aren't just fluffy clouds and kittens. They aren't all happy endings where everything happens for a reason. Instead, our true God stories are messy, raw, and often unvarnished. They might even include some swear words. But they are also filled with holy beautiful resilient truth and the peace of Christ. In this series we will explore our God-stories together with some prompts, examples from Scripture, and the courage of the Spirit. Once we dig into our God stories, we might even have the courage to share them. Everyone is invited! For more information and to watch previous sessions of Adult Faith Forum, visit: <https://trinitylc.org/learning/adult/adult-ed/>. Questions? Contact Penny Catlin at pccatlin@juno.com.

MARCH 7 The Vision of God's Story – Rev. Dr. Chris Bellefeuille will share about the vision and empowering opportunity of sharing our God stories as the church. Her Doctorate from Luther Seminary focused on the ways that the church and the dominant culture did not always provide helpful ways for modeling discipleship. Thankfully, the Bible provides a number of great examples that we can follow.

MARCH 14 Pens, Playdough and Prompts – There is no one way to tell a faith story or a God moment: Pastor Peter and Zanny Johnson will share some tools, prompts, and creative ways to help lift up God's fingerprints along our journey.

MARCH 21 Stories Made to Share – Our stories aren't just for us, they are also for our neighbors and for building Beloved community. Our lives constantly overlap and intersect with a network of the Spirit's activity. My faith journey and struggles might just help yours, and vice versa. Pastor Peter and Penny Catlin will (and potentially others) share some examples of people's faith stories, God sightings, and unvarnished Jesus-moments. We believe that these stories, this blend of God's story and our own, has the power to keep lifting us toward hope and Easter. Again and again.



Art by Robin Cain. Color me and put me in your front window. For more visit trinitylc.org/learning/family.

LENT 2021 WEDNESDAY LENTEN WORSHIP, SPEAKER & DISCUSSION AT 6:30 P.M. ON ZOOM

Feb. 24, March 3, March 10, March 17 & March 24

Worship is at 6:30 p.m. followed by guest speaker and discussion at 7 p.m.

Use this link every Wednesday during Lent at 6:30 pm:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84679830616>

Meeting ID: 846 7983 0616

Tune-in to Zoom each Wednesday in Lent for a short meditative service for all ages. Stay online after worship for guest speakers and discussion. Together, we will explore the racial inequities surrounding housing and the history of unconstitutional policies and prejudices. And we ask ourselves how we can be better neighbors today.

FEB. 24 – RHONDA OTTESON – Otteson is Executive Director of Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless (MCH) and will present Homelessness in Minnesota: Data & Stories. A look at the statistical information specific to Minnesota and homelessness as well as the legislative efforts to increase affordable housing and in other ways mitigate homelessness. Some Trinity members already participate in the work of MCH and specifically the Day on the Hill effort.

MARCH 3 – PASTOR PETER – Our Pastor of Lifelong Faith Formation provides an overview of our focus on the racial inequities surrounding housing, and explores the history of segregation by design.

MARCH 10 – THE REV. JIM BEAR JACOBS – Jacobs is Director of Racial Justice at the Minnesota Council of Churches (MCC) and will be discussing the biblical mandate for racial reconciliation and reparations, and the new initiative adopted by the MCC for Truth and Reparations. The ELCA and our Saint Paul Area Synod are active in the work of MCC and the initiative for Truth and Reparations.

MARCH 17 – RACHEL NEIWERT – Neiwert is a history professor at St. Catherine University and will speak about her work on a project called “Welcoming the Dear Neighbor?: A History of Housing Inequality in Ramsey County.” This project focuses on understanding the historical context of racial covenants and housing segregation in Ramsey County, Minnesota and is done in collaboration with the Mapping Prejudice Project.

MARCH 24 – SUE WATLOV PHILLIPS – Watlov Phillips is Executive Director of Metropolitan Interfaith Council on Affordable Housing (MICA) and will provide an interactive discussion about why the last five decades have been the longest period of growing homelessness in the history of our country, and how people of faith must be allies in the important work to end homelessness. Trinity is a member of MICA and our Outreach Missions’ Steering Team on Housing & Homelessness is active in the work of MICA.

DEEP DIVE LENTEN BOOK STUDY

For those that want to dig deep into the racial inequities surrounding housing, we offer a Lenten book study. Please join us in reading *The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America* by Richard Rothstein. See the book review at right. Books are available at The Valley Bookseller with a generous 15 percent book club discount, please mention the Trinity book study.

Sign up for a book study group at: <https://trinitylc.org/home/special-event/>

Monday Morning at 9 a.m. Discussion Leader: Ann Wolff

Monday Night at 7 p.m. Discussion Leader: Dellzie Hodler

Wednesday Night at 8 p.m. (after the speaker for more discussion)

Discussion Leader: Pastor Peter

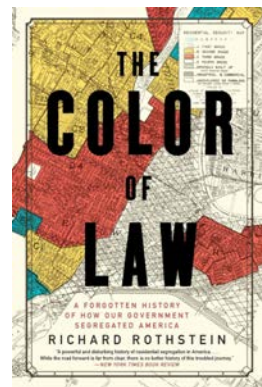
Thursday Morning at 10:30 a.m. Discussion Leader: Penny Catlin

BOOK REVIEW: *The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America* by Richard Rothstein

In this groundbreaking history of the modern American metropolis, Richard Rothstein, a leading authority on housing policy, explodes the myth that America's cities came to be racially divided through *de facto* segregation—that is, through individual prejudices, income differences, or the actions of private institutions like banks and real estate agencies. Rather, *The Color of Law* makes clear that it was the laws and policy decisions passed by local, state, and federal governments that actually promoted the discriminatory patterns that continue to this day.

Rothstein chronicles the untold story that begins in the 1920s, showing how this process of *de jure* segregation began with explicit racial zoning, as millions of African Americans moved in a great historical migration from the south to the north. Further, Rothstein shows how government policies led to the creation of officially segregated public housing and the demolition of previously integrated neighborhoods. While urban areas rapidly deteriorated, the great American suburbanization of the post–World War II years was spurred on by federal subsidies for builders on the condition that no homes be sold to African Americans. Finally, Rothstein shows how police and prosecutors brutally upheld these standards by supporting violent resistance to black families in white neighborhoods.

While the Fair Housing Act of 1968 prohibited future discrimination, it did nothing to reverse residential patterns that had become deeply embedded. Yet recent outbursts of violence in cities like Baltimore, Ferguson, and Minneapolis show us precisely how the legacy of these earlier eras contributes to persistent racial unrest. Rothstein's invaluable examination shows that only by relearning this history can we finally pave the way for the nation to remedy its unconstitutional past.





Worship Texts

Below are the scripture texts from the Revised Common Lectionary that will be used on the date listed to prepare the message for worship.

March 7	John 2:13-22
March 14	John 3:14-21
March 21	John 12:20-33
March 28	Mark 11:1-11 or John 12:12-16

HOLY WEEK 2021

Jesus gives us the clearest picture of how to live, how to love and serve our neighbors, how to turn again and again to God for all that we need.

PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP - MARCH 28

9 am Online Worship & 11 am on TV channel 18

10 am Palm Processional at Trinity

Live Palm Processional at the building for every one. Masks required. More details coming soon. (No Drive-in worship this day.)

MAUNDY THURSDAY - APRIL 1

Noon Online Foot Washing Rite

Noon & 5 pm Drive-thru Communion at Trinity

Foot washing rite at noon, watch any time throughout the day, on Facebook or on our web site. Drive-thru communion from noon-1 p.m. and 5-6 p.m. in Trinity's 4th Street parking lot. More details coming soon.

GOOD FRIDAY - APRIL 2

11 am Online Worship

Watch at 11 a.m., or any time throughout the day, on Facebook or on our web site.

EASTER SUNDAY - APRIL 4

7 am Online Worship & 11 am on TV channel 18

10 am Easter Festival Worship at the Drive-in

Watch at 7 a.m. or any time throughout the day, on Facebook or on our web site.

Join us for outdoor Easter worship at the Drive-in, Communion will be provided.

ONLINE WORSHIP

Facebook Livestream>>

facebook.com/trinitylcstillwater/

On our web site>>

trinitylc.org/worship-music/worship/online-worship/



EASTER GARDEN - THIS FORM AND PAYMENT MUST BE TURNED IN BY SUNDAY, MARCH 28

In the spirit of memorializing or honoring loved ones this Easter, we welcome donations toward an Easter Garden. We also appreciate memorials and honors directed toward maintenance and improvements of our facilities. (Easter Garden will be used to beautify the sanctuary for online worship on Easter and through the spring and summer.) Easter Garden names will be printed in the April issue of *Trinity Today*. Please fill out the form below and mail it along with payment to Trinity Lutheran Church at P.O. Box 339, Stillwater, MN 55082.

☐ Facilities Maintenance & Improvements \$ _____

☐ Easter Garden (suggested donation \$20) \$ _____

In memory of: _____

In honor of: _____

Given by: _____

Phone Number (_____) _____ Total amount enclosed \$ _____



SOLO 55+PLUS

**Singles Group
for Ages 55 & Up**

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

SOLO 55 PLUS is a faith-based group promoting friendships and fellowship. We are already anticipating our first pop-up tailgating event as soon as the weather is a little warmer. The group walks on Thursdays, weather permitting.

Each week a newsletter is emailed to members with fun and valuable information. To receive this newsletter, or for more information, please send email to: SOLO55PLUS@gmail.com.

HIGHLIGHT: Belwin Conservancy



By Sheila Maybanks, Green Team

Belwin Conservancy is celebrating their 50th anniversary this year!

Belwin is a beautiful piece of land with prairies, savanna and woods in Washington County—1,500 acres containing 16% of the Valley Creek watershed.

Belwin's original goal was to provide outdoor environmental education to school children—more than 10,000 kids a year visit Belwin to learn about the natural world and how to care for it.

Belwin makes its prairies open to walkers and hikers 365 days a year. Maybe especially this year as we took to

the outdoors, many people walked the beautiful trails with friends, family and dogs. They also manage the Lucy Winton Bell athletic fields, which has its own solar array and access to trails.

Maybe you have seen or heard of the herd of bison that come to Belwin every May? They roam the prairie and in doing so they restore it with native plants and welcome native birds. There is a celebration each year to welcome the bison. It is really something to see and hear the huge beasts as they tumble out of the truck and run across the landscape!

Belwin also provides workshops and events for the community at the Education Center.

Restoration of the native habitat is another goal; Belwin is now home to Blandings turtle and the rusty patched bumble bee, our state bee.

Belwin is a wonderful resource for us. Go walk the trails, maybe volunteer by helping restore habitat, or attend special events.

The Phipps in Hudson has a exhibit—in person and online—on Belwin's 50th anniversary, featuring maps, history, photos and artwork inspired by Belwin. Please visit www.thephipps.org.

For more information about the Belwin Conservancy, visit www.belwin.org.



Walking in the footsteps of our Trinity retired brothers on our journey with God!

Meeting & Bible Study Wednesdays at 10:30 am Meeting on Zoom

The Retired Men's Group continues to meet via Zoom each Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. for a one-hour Bible study.

Zoom.us > Join a meeting
Meeting ID: 872 5512 6414
Password: 964596

More information about this group at: <https://trinitylc.org/congregational-life/connections/retired-mens-group-rmg/>



Summer Camp – Register now!

Seeds Summer Camp (completed grades 1-3) | July 18-20, 2021 | \$200

Wapo Youth Camp (completed grades 4-8) | Aug. 15-20, 2021 | \$495

Faith is formed at bible camp! Trinity partners with Wapogasset Lutheran Bible Camp in Amery, WI. If the Trinity week is full, please go through the registration process to save a spot by way of the wait list, no deposit required. Read more and links to register at: <https://trinitylc.org/learning/summer/camps/>.

NEWMEMBERSUNDAY!

Sunday, March 21 at 9 am Online Worship & 10 am Drive-in Worship

We will be receiving new members in worship this day—with pre-submitted photos during online worship at 9 a.m. and in person at the Drive-in (in Houlton, WI) at 10 a.m.! For more information contact Zanny Johnson at zjohnson@trinitylc.org.

New members have a special invitation to attend Telling Your (Unvarnished) God Story: Three Part Series as Part of Adult Faith Forum. Please see page 6 for details.



The Light in Me sees and honors the Light in each of You

YogaDevotion Chair/Flow Combo Class

Thursdays 9 – 10 am | Meeting on Zoom

March 4 – April 22 | \$72 for 8 classes

All classes meeting on Zoom. Register to receive the link. Led by a trained yoga instructor, YogaDevotion is a practice of breath, prayer, and movement designed to encourage healthy living and a peaceful presence. For women and men of all skill levels and abilities. Beginners welcome, no experience needed!

Register and pay online at <https://trinitylc.org/congregational-life/care/yoga/>
Questions? Contact Sue Peterson at todd@sue2@aol.com.

PAUSE
&
pray

PAUSE & PRAY

www.facebook.com/trinitylcstillwater/

Join us on Facebook Live at noon on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays to pause and pray together as a faith community. Tuesdays will be a focused reading of the worship text for the coming Sunday, Wednesdays will be reflection and prayer, and Thursdays a meditation on an element of worship.

On Tuesdays—you're invited to lead our faith community in a focused reading of the worship text for the coming Sunday. Follow the Sign-up Genius link below to see more details, review the available slots and click on the button to sign up. Submit your finished message to Linda Flood at lflood@trinitylc.org.

Sign up for Tuesdays at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904084cada82ba1fb6-pause>

On Wednesdays—you're invited to lead our faith community in a few minutes of reflection and prayer. Follow the Sign-up Genius link below to review the available slots and click on the button to sign up. God's sky is the limit! Pick a topic and prayers or a spiritual practice that works for you share. Video yourself in landscape/horizontal mode (versus portrait/vertical). Using headphones with a built-in microphone assists in creating the best sound quality possible. Submit your finished message to Pastor Peter at pwestonmiller@trinitylc.org.

Sign up for Wednesdays at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050c44afa72fa2ff2-pause>

Find us on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/trinitylcstillwater/



Trinity Lutheran Church
in Stillwater, MN

HOMELESSNESS OUTREACH EDUCATION RECAP

Last year at this time, Trinity hosted five weeks of emergency winter warming space for homeless in our community. This winter, due to the impact of COVID-19, we were unable to repeat this outreach mission. Recognizing the ongoing need, a series of educational presentations at Adult Faith Forum sessions in January identified various areas of successful outreach that will hopefully guide us as we look ahead to planning our future response. To watch the Zoom recordings, visit our YouTube channel, Adult Ed playlist at: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLN3zsLTSVhGl_5nDiEisa4WLC65o0KWS5.

Jan. 3 – Michele Hermansen, Trinity's Outreach Mission Team Leader, began the month diving into the meaning of Accompaniment for all mission endeavors and life in general. Accompaniment was an important element for success during all the January presentations.

- Accompaniment is NOT doing, instructing others, or saving others from a bad situation.
- It is about being partners, physically walking side by side, becoming invested in a person's life, death, and struggle for survival.
- It is more effective than defining someone's problem and imposing your "solution" without really engaging them where they are.

Jan. 10 – Trisha Kauffman, the Executive Director of Solid Ground in White Bear Lake, shared the story of Solid Ground's focus on moving families from homelessness to stable housing in Ramsey and Washington Counties.

- Families enter through a coordinated entry system into apartments in Solid Ground housing or privately-owned local apartments. Solid Ground provides a continuum of housing, including short-term (less than 12 months), medium-term (up to 24 months) and permanent supportive housing.
- Solid Ground provides rental assistance and family-specific services through a family advocate who walks alongside each family to connect them to appropriate resources. Solid Ground also has staff that specialize in areas such as employment, education, parenting and children's services.
- Over 80% of families who leave Solid Ground exit into permanent housing.

Learn more at: www.solidgroundmn.org

Jan. 17 – Gabrielle Clowdus is the CEO and Co-Founder of a Twin Cities based organization called Settled. She introduced us to a special kind of affordable housing concept they have developed for the chronically homeless called "Sacred Settlements" that incorporates Tiny Homes and an intentional support community (see photos on page 14).

- Many of the homeless deal with difficult issues which cause them to remain chronically unhoused.
- The "Sacred Settlements" concept is built using the five pillars of the "Community First" approach:
 - 1) Social Belonging
 - 2) Affordable Housing
 - 3) Neighborhood Asset
 - 4) Supportive Network
 - 5) Purposeful Work
- Tiny Homes are built by volunteers at a furnished cost of about \$25,000; are about 160 square feet; rent in a Sacred Settlement = \$200/mo.
- The organization owning the land for a Sacred Settlement provides a separate space for shared kitchen, laundry and large gathering space as well as supportive services.

Learn more at: www.settled.org

Jan. 24 – Colleen Diemer is a member of the Leadership and Development Committee at Faith Lutheran Church in Forest Lake. She has been involved in developing a Sacred Settlement plan that is being envisioned for their church campus.

- Church members have begun the specialized process to establish a Sacred Settlement under the guidance of Settled.
- They are also following the lead of Mosaic Christian Community Church in St. Paul who will open their Sacred Settlement in June, 2021.
- Extra efforts are being made to integrate Faith's plan for a Sacred Settlement into the local area surrounding the church property. The goal is to gain not only congregational "buy-in" but also acceptance and support from the surrounding neighborhood.

Jan. 31 – Julie Jeppson, the Executive Director of Stepping Stone Emergency Housing in Anoka, described their mission to serve homeless individuals in an emergency transitional shelter.

- Stepping Stone provides 24/7 shelter and services at a facility

that allows residents to stay for an average of 3 months. While there, residents establish an all-important home address and begin the process of rebuilding personal security and stability.

- Professional assistance guides each resident to find their path to return to a role within the community that includes employment and permanent housing.
 - Over 500 individuals were served in 2019. Approximately 40% move from Stepping Stone to permanent housing.
- Learn more at: www.steppingstoneeh.org

Jan. 31 – Jenny Mason from Washington County provided an overview of the current efforts to address homelessness in Washington County. Stepping Stone provides the supportive services.

- Washington County staff administer and distribute federal, state and county funding to assist local residents who are challenged by poverty to help them avoid a homeless condition.
- The county's Homeless Outreach Services Team (HOST) interacts with homeless individuals and families at local highway rest stops, parks, etc. and attempts to connect them with emergency housing options. One option in use is to place them temporarily in local hotel rooms until more suitable housing can be found.
- Washington County is presently exploring options to purchase or build a young adult homeless shelter.

Each of these presenters brought success stories as well as visions for continuing to improve the lives of our neighbors who have experienced difficulties with poverty and homelessness. Following the success of our 2020 emergency warming space and the inspiration of these six dedicated presenters we heard in January 2021, we are now in the process (with other Valley churches) of actively pursuing a number of potential initiatives to be introduced soon. Stay tuned!

If you have questions or comments related to these topics, please contact one of our Homeless Steering Team members:

Jeff Anderson – jeffa409@gmail.com
Roger Funk – rlfunk67@me.com
John Hodler – johnhodler@gmail.com
Mark Weber – markweber22@outlook.com
Sandy Wendt – sjwendt46@gmail.com

POVERTY AND HOUSING CRISIS INFORMATION: WASHINGTON COUNTY (2017)

The following illustration highlights a variety of key components that contribute to income levels and affordability of both owned and rented homes and apartments in Washington County for the year 2017. The trends shown are likely NOT to have improved since then!

For those of you who enjoy a deep dive into data and analysis, the source of this illustration is www.MHPonline.org. Navigating to that website will bring you into many potential hours of fascinating (and somewhat discouraging) information and illustrations.

Please know that we are in the midst of an affordable housing shortage crisis that, in reality, is one of the main drivers of the continuing struggle with housing insecurity for the poorest in our community. Speaking in favor of affordable housing projects at your local city hall or communicating with your county and state elected officials is a simple and effective way to help support the effort to provide safe, secure and stable housing for everyone in our community.



Washington County

TWIN CITIES REGION | 92,005 HOUSEHOLDS



RENTER HOUSEHOLDS

17,241 | 19% of households



OWNER HOUSEHOLDS

74,764 | 81% of households

Many Minnesotans cannot afford a home.

Rent and home values continue to rise while incomes decline or remain stagnant, putting a modest apartment or homeownership out of reach.

\$1,246 Median rent 2017
\$993 Median rent 2000

26% **RENT** ↑

19% **VALUE** ↑

\$264,300 2017 median home value
\$221,804 2000 median home value

\$46,329 Median renter income 2000
\$49,831 Median renter income 2017

8% **INCOME** ↑

-1% **INCOME** ↓

\$101,781 2000 median owner income
\$100,550 2017 median owner income

4,515 Extremely low-income (ELI) households
1,605 Available units affordable to ELI



% white households that are homeowners **75%**
% people of color households that are homeowners **39%**

540 **EVICTIONS IN 2017**
600 Evictions in 2015



FORECLOSURES IN 2017 193
Foreclosures in 2015 326

Many Minnesotans are experiencing cost burden.

When housing costs require more than 30 percent of a household's income each month, families are more likely to have insufficient resources to pay for basic needs, like food and medicine. Yet more than 572,000 Minnesota households are cost burdened.

RENTER households
7,688

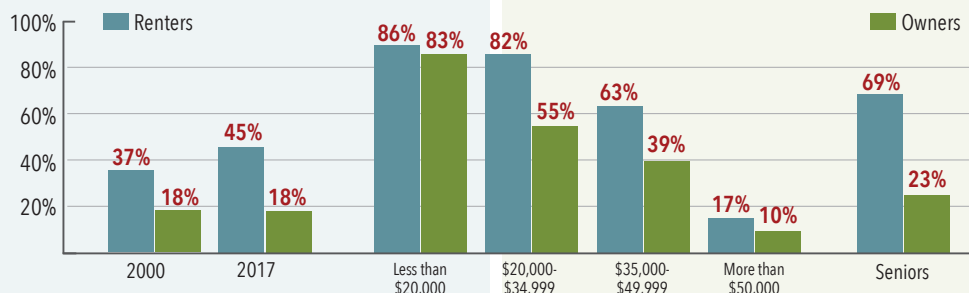
TOTAL cost-burdened households
20,993

OWNER households
13,305

2,275 Cost burdened SENIOR renter households
3,452 SEVERELY cost burdened renter households



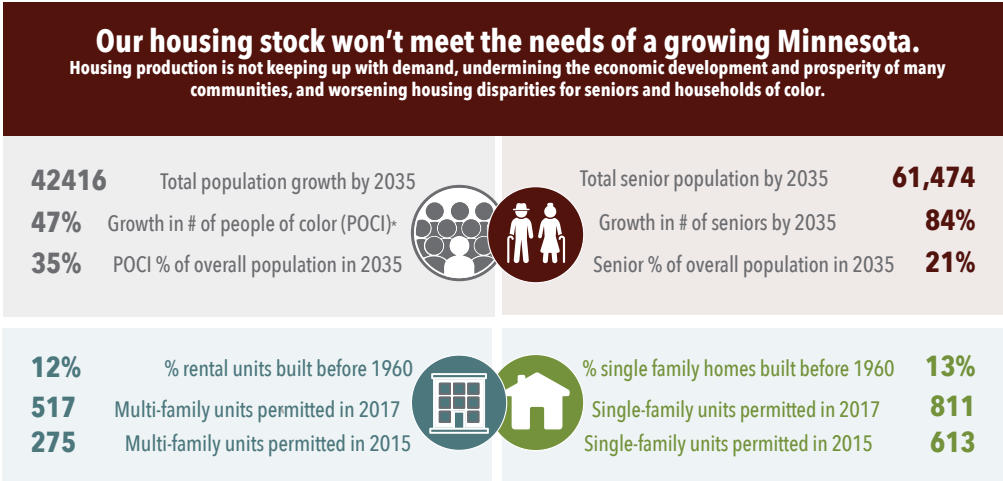
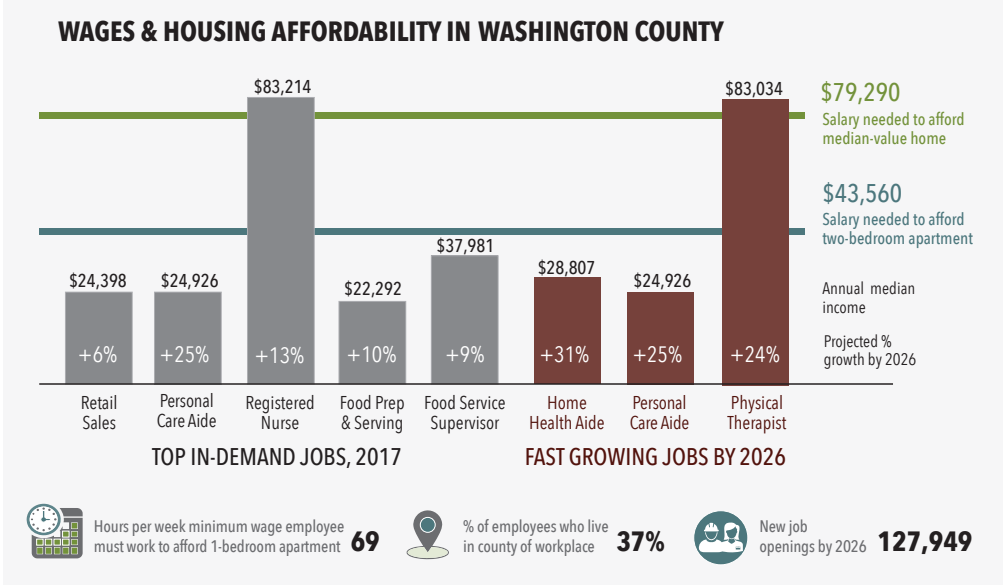
Cost burdened SENIOR owner households **3,766**
SEVERELY cost burdened owner households **4,617**



Continued on next page >

In-demand jobs don't cover housing costs.

The median earnings for most of the top in-demand and high-growth jobs throughout Minnesota do not cover housing costs for a two-bedroom apartment or the mortgage for a median-value home.



SOURCES – **Renter households:** Rent and income adjusted for inflation. U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2017, 5 year estimates | **Owner households:** Home value and income adjusted for inflation. U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2017, 5 year estimates | **Cost burden:** U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2017, 5 year estimates | **Evictions:** Minnesota State Court Administrator, Monthly Unlawful Detainers by County | **Foreclosures:** Minnesota Homeownership Center, County Sheriff's Data 2017 | **ELI Units and Renters:** MHP Analysis of HUD's CHAS Portal Data using the NUHC methodology | **Wages:** Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (MN DEED), Occupations in Demand, July 2017; Employment Outlook, MN DEED | **Housing Stock:** U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2017, 5 year estimates, U.S. Census Bureau, Building Permits Survey, 2018 | **Seniors / Population growth:** Minnesota County Population Projections by Age and Gender, Minnesota State Demographic Center, March 2017 |
 *Homeownership rates and growth estimates for POCI are regional

To watch the Zoom recordings of the January Adult Faith Forum sessions focused on Outreach Missions, visit our YouTube channel, Adult Ed playlist at: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=P_LN3zsLTSVhGl_5nDiEisa4WLC65o0KWS5



Tiny Homes in Sacred Settlement community.

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

- To family and friends of **Mary Leverty**

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Jan. 24	Feb. 7
Live viewers..... 83	Live viewers.... 100
Views/week..... 404	Views/week..... 193
Drive-in..... 63	(No Drive-in)

Jan. 31	Feb. 14
Live viewers..... 84	Live viewers.... 105
Views/week..... 337	Views/week..... 379
Drive-in..... 80	(No Drive-in)

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

SUNDAY WORSHIP

- Livestream on Facebook at 9 a.m.
- At the Drive-in at 10 a.m.
- Watch on TV at 11 a.m.

Watch Worship on local channel 18 through Valley Access

Sunday 11 a.m.

Wednesday Noon & 6 p.m.

Thursday Midnight & 6 a.m.

Saturday 11 p.m.

CONGRATS!

Congratulations and thank you to Penny Catlin who was elected at the synod conference in February to attend the Churchwide Assembly in 2022 as a voting member. We are thrilled to have Penny representing Trinity!

AT RIGHT: Penny facilitating an Adult Faith Forum on Zoom, watch anytime at: <https://trinitylc.org/learning/adult/adult-ed/>.



trinity TODAY

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Office: 651-439-7400; Fax: 651-430-2935

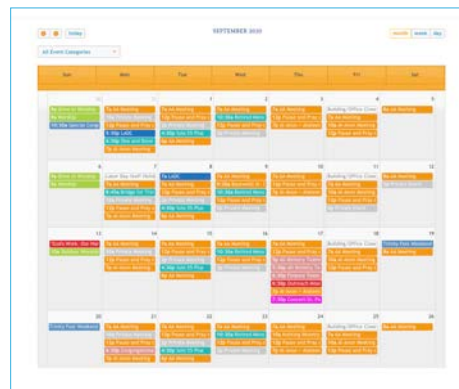
Email: info@trinitylc.org

Trinity Today is available on Trinity's web site at www.trinitylc.org (click NEWS to download a PDF).

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why trinity?

Because God
first loved us,
we live as Jesus in the world,
loving God and
loving neighbor.



CALENDAR

Please see the calendar on our web site for events, meetings and other happenings at Trinity. The calendar has been updated with online events. Thank you for your patience as we keep it up to date in an ever-changing time. Please let us know at info@trinitylc.org if your group or event is not listed. View the calendar at: <https://trinitylc.org/calendar/>

core values

Exceptional Worship
Radical Hospitality
Authentic Community
Lifelong Faith Formation
Compassionate Action

welcome

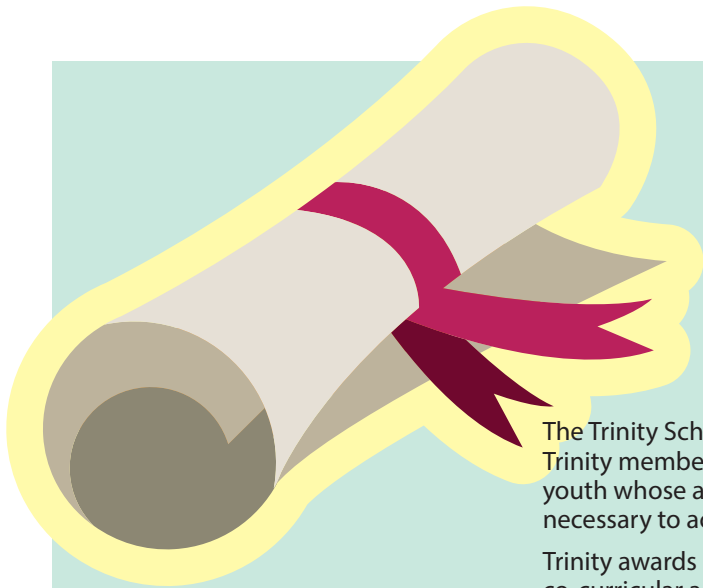
To read our full welcome statement please visit our web site at www.trinitylc.org > WELCOME > WHO WE ARE > RECONCILING IN CHRIST.





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Trinity Scholarship Fund

The Trinity Scholarship Fund was established by the estate of Jeanette Johnson, a Trinity member who dreamed of being able to offer college tuition assistance to youth whose achievement and character indicated they possessed the qualities necessary to achieve excellence in higher education.

Trinity awards up to four scholarships each year on the basis of academic status, co-curricular achievement, good citizenship and active involvement at Trinity. The trust also stipulates that scholarship recipients must be baptized at and confirmed by Trinity, and active participants in Trinity youth programs.

Once selected, scholarship winners may renew their scholarships for up to three additional years, providing they maintain a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.75 or a "B-" or, in the absence of a similar grading system, remain in "fine academic standing" as indicated by official record. Scholarship recipients must reapply each year for renewal.

Scholarship applications are available on our web site at: <https://trinitylc.org/learning/youth/scholarship-fund/>.

All completed original scholarship and renewal applications must be received by Thursday, **April 1**. Please mail to: Trinity Lutheran Church, Trinity Scholarship Fund, Attn Bob Eiselt, P.O. Box 339, Stillwater, MN 55082.

**Applications due
April 1**